



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - March 6, 2003**

- ***In the West***, beneficial precipitation is overspreading areas from the ***Pacific Northwest to the northern Rockies***, but unfavorably dry weather prevails elsewhere. The ***West*** is nearing the end of a disappointing winter wet season, with many areas facing summer water-supply concerns due to already-low reservoir levels and below-normal mountain snow packs.
- ***On the Plains***, warm weather is returning to the ***southern half of the region***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to range from 55 to 75 degrees F. Meanwhile, snow showers accompany another late-season cold blast entering ***Montana***, where winter wheat retains a generally shallow protective snow cover of 4 inches or less.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold weather lingers in the wake of the recent snow storm, which stressed livestock but improved topsoil moisture reserves.
- ***In the South***, a band of showers and thunderstorms stretches from the ***Carolinas to the central Gulf Coast***, as the latest in a series of storm systems crosses the region. Wet soils and flooded lowlands continue to slow spring fieldwork across much of the ***South***, except in ***southern Florida***, where warm, dry conditions prevail.

**Outlook:** Precipitation will end later today across the ***Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States***, while another strong cold front will usher in below-normal temperatures and occasional snow to the ***northern Plains and upper Midwest***. Farther west, a series of Pacific storm systems will bring periods of locally heavy precipitation and gusty winds to the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***northern portions of the Rockies and Plains***. Over the weekend, another Arctic cold front will reinforce the late-season chill across much of the ***nation's northern tier***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 11-15 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***Ohio Valley***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected in the ***Southwest, Plains***, and ***South***. Below-normal temperatures will persist in the ***Great Lakes region*** and ***New England***, but warmer-than-normal weather is likely across the ***western half of the U.S.*** and along the ***Gulf Coast***.

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